



## TWRA FARM WILDLIFE HABITAT PROGRAM (FWHP)

TWRA is offering technical and financial assistance to landowners who seek to improve upland habitats for quail, rabbits, grouse, songbirds and other wildlife. This program provides standard cost-share reimbursement for habitat practices. Cost-share rates are typically about 75% of practice costs.

Upon approval of a plan, the landowner signs a contract agreeing to implement the practices and protect and maintain them for 5 years. Cost-share payments are received after the practices have been completed and inspected. Maximum cost-share is \$1,000 per contract on private lands and is limited to one contract per landowning entity per year. Applicants are considered on a first-come first-served basis.

Interested landowners can contact TWRA regional offices. A TWRA small game biologist will meet with the landowner to develop a habitat management plan. Authorized practices include fescue eradication, establishment of native warm season grasses, prescribed burning, periodic strip disking, lespedeza food strips, and establishment of woody escape cover if needed.

**NOTE: While State employees and/or their spouses can receive free technical assistance from TWRA through the Farm Wildlife Habitat Program, Tennessee State Law prohibits them from receiving any direct or indirect payments. Money received through the FWHP is considered taxable by the IRS. Consult a tax advisor regarding your tax situation.**



Native Grasses like Indiangrass provide excellent nesting cover for quail and songbirds as well as providing highly productive and nutritious forage for livestock.

Some native warm season grasses (indiangrass, big bluestem, switchgrass, and eastern gamagrass) are more productive and palatable than cool season grasses and fill the need for quality summer forages. These native grasses also provide critical habitat for rabbits and for nesting quail and songbirds.

This dual benefit for forage and for wildlife offers a great opportunity to provide valuable wildlife habitat while helping the landowner retain an economically viable farm. This program will provide cost-share to farmers desiring to establish native warm season grasses for hay production. Hay cutting will be allowed but no grazing. Hay may be cut on 75% of the acreage during years 3, 4, and 5 of the contract.

TWRA may be able to provide seed for annual grain food plots, but this practice is not cost-shared.

For more information on the Farm Wildlife Habitat Program, contact the TWRA Small Game Biologist in your region:

Region 1 - Jackson	(800) 372-3928
Region 2 - Nashville	(800) 624-7406
Region 3 - Crossville	(800) 262-6704
Region 4 - Morristown	(800) 332-0900

TWRA Small Game Program Coordinator  
(615) 781-6616